

Amendments to the Claims:

(All the pending claims have been reproduced below).

1. (Cancelled) An explosive loaded projectile with reduced probability of accidental detonation when subjected to an unplanned thermal stimulus, comprising:

 a body having a forward end, an aft region, and an inner surface;
 a fuze comprising a threaded plug and secured to the forward end of the body;
 an explosive disposed within the inner surface of the body;
 a fuze adapter having an inner threaded surface and an outer threaded surface;
 wherein the outer threaded surface of the fuze adapter is secured to the inner surface of the body; and
 wherein the inner threaded surface of the fuze adapter is secured to the threaded plug.

2. (Cancelled) The projectile of claim 1, wherein the fuze adapter is comprised of a cylindrical ring.

3. (Previously amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the plastic member has a diameter of approximately 1.5 inches.

4. (Previously amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the plastic member has a length of approximately 0.64 inch.

5. (Cancelled) The projectile of claim 4, wherein the fuze adapter is made of ionomer plastic.

6. (Cancelled) The projectile of claim 1, wherein the explosive includes an insensitive melt-castable explosive having a predetermined auto-ignition temperature.

7. (Cancelled) The projectile of claim 6, wherein the fuze adapter is made of a material that has a melting point below the auto-ignition temperature of the explosive, such that during the unplanned thermal stimulus such the fuze adapter is melted upon reaching the melting point, prior to the explosive reaching the auto-ignition temperature.

8. (Cancelled) The projectile of claim 7, wherein upon melting of the fuze adapter, the fuze becomes detached from the body, thereby allowing combustion gas generated by an explosive that has auto-ignited to vent out the body.

9. (Cancelled) The projectile according to claim 8, wherein the body is secured to the fuze via a threaded opening.

10. (Cancelled) The projectile of claim 9, wherein, as the unplanned thermal stimulus continues to heat the projectile, the explosive begins to burn upon reaching the auto-ignition temperature and to generate a combustion gas; and

wherein the combusting explosive expels the fuze from the body, thereby enabling pressure generated by the combustion gas to be relieved via the threaded opening.

11. (Previously amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the projectile body is made of a steel shell having an ogival shape.

12. (Previously amended) The system of claim 25, further including an obturating ring secured to the body.

13. (Previously amended) The system according to claim 12, further including a tail fin.

14. (Previously amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the body is secured to the tail fin via a threaded portion.

15. (Previously amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the tail fin comprises a plurality of fins that maintain a flight path of the projectile.

16. (Previously amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the tail section further comprises an ignition cartridge.

17. (Previously amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the tail fin further comprises a plurality of vent holes.

18. (Previously amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the tail section further comprises a plurality of propelling charge containers for holding a propelling charge; and

wherein upon firing of the projectile, the ignition cartridge is impacted to cause the propelling charge to combust inside the tail fin, which, in turn, causes the propelling charge outside the tail fin to combust and to generate a combustible gas and pressure to propel the projectile forward in flight.

19. (Withdrawn) A enclosure for packaging an explosive loaded projectile having a nose and a tail section, comprising:

a cylindrical fiber tube made including:

a stationary end cap; and

a removable end cap, wherein the tail section is positioned against the removable end cap to enable the projectile to be loaded and removed in a rearward manner;

a support ring securing the exterior surface of the projectile;

the fiber board tube has an overall length that is longer than the projectile, so that a space is formed between the nose of the projectile and the stationary end cap of the fiber tube.

20. (Withdrawn) The enclosure of claim 19, wherein the projectile includes a fuze adapter and a body.

21. (Withdrawn) The enclosure of claim 20, wherein in the event of an unplanned thermal stimulus, the fuze adapter melts, allowing the fuze to become separated from the projectile body.

22. (Withdrawn) The enclosure of claim 21, wherein the support ring is formed of a plastic cylindrical shell with a circular flange that is peripherally located along the cylindrical shell.

23. (Withdrawn) The enclosure of claim 19, further including a container.

24. (Withdrawn) The enclosure of claim 23, further including an intumescent coating deposited onto any of an exterior surface or interior surface of the container.

25. (Currently amended) A system of explosive loaded projectiles protected from chain explosion caused by possibility of fire, with reduced probability of accidental detonation of the projectiles when subjected to an unplanned thermal stimulus, comprising projectiles that have:

a projectile body having a forward end, an aft region, and an inner surface, said forward end having a cylindrical opening for placement of a fuze, said opening having internal threads disposed therein, said projectile body having COMP-B explosive disposed within the inner surface thereof;

said fuze comprising a plug end, said plug end having external threads thereon; an annular cylindrically shaped FORMION ionomer plastic member, said plastic member having external threads which are sized so as to mate with said internal threads of said projectile body cylindrical opening to match the body cylindrical opening internal threads, and said plastic member having internal threads to match the fuze plug external threads, said plastic member being disposed wholly internal to said fuze body cylindrical opening annularly surrounding said plug region of said fuze, so as to secure said fuze to said projectile body and support the fuze therein,

wherein said plastic member softens at a temperature substantially below the auto-ignition temperature of said explosive and by a factor of at least 40% below such auto-ignition temperature, said plastic member softening at a temperature of 200 degrees Fahrenheit to about 206 degrees Fahrenheit, such that during an unplanned thermal stimulus the plastic member softens or melts so as to no longer firmly secure and support said fuze within said projectile body,

whereby if combustion gases are generated by an auto-ignition of said explosive, such gases can vent around said fuze plug or cause said fuze to detach or be expelled to likewise vent such gases; said allowance for venting of such gases preventing a more seriously potent explosion of the projectile body were it a fully sealed device if completely closed by the fuze without possibility of venting of gases;

wherein the explosive loaded projectiles are stored in an accompanying box, said box fully coated externally and internally with an intumescent paint, said intumescent paint slowing the advance of a fire external to said box, such that the temperature of the projectiles in the box advances at a slower rate of heating to more assuredly allow heat to be adequately absorbed in each projectile plastic member sufficient to soften such members prior to the time that the explosive of a projectile can reach its auto-ignition temperature, thus more assuredly allowing for the possibility of venting of combustion gases at such time when the explosive might reach its auto-ignition temperature.

26. (Currently amended) A system of explosive loaded projectiles protected from chain explosion caused by possibility of fire, with reduced probability of accidental detonation of the projectiles when subjected to an unplanned thermal stimulus, comprising projectiles that have:

a projectile body having a forward end, an aft region, and an inner surface, said forward end having a cylindrical opening for placement of a fuze, said opening having internal threads disposed therein, said projectile body having COMP-B explosive disposed within the inner surface thereof;

said fuze comprising a plug end, said plug end having external threads thereon;

an annular cylindrically shaped FORMION ionomer plastic member, said plastic member having external threads which are sized so as to mate with said internal threads of said projectile body cylindrical opening to match the body cylindrical opening internal threads, and said plastic member having internal threads to match the fuze plug external threads, said plastic member being disposed wholly internal to said fuze body cylindrical opening annularly surrounding said plug region of said fuze, so as to secure said fuze to said projectile body and support the fuze therein,

wherein said plastic member softens at a temperature substantially below the auto-ignition temperature of said explosive and by a factor of at least 40% below such auto-ignition temperature, said plastic member softening at a temperature of 200 degrees Fahrenheit to about 206 degrees Fahrenheit, such that during an unplanned thermal stimulus the plastic member softens or melts so as to no longer firmly secure and support said fuze within said projectile body,

whereby if combustion gases are generated by an auto-ignition of said explosive, such gases can vent around said fuze plug or cause said fuze to detach or be expelled to likewise vent such gases; said allowance for venting of such gases preventing a more seriously potent explosion of the projectile body were it a fully sealed device if completely closed by the fuze without possibility of venting of gases.